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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/910,057	07/23/2001	Kenji Kusunoki	P107385-00005	2560

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EXAMINER

HUFFMAN, JULIAN D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2853

DATE MAILED: 01/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/910,057

Applicant(s)

KUSUNOKI, KENJI

Examiner

Julian D. Huffman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 November 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda et al. in view of Schneider et al. (U.S. 6,338,298 B2).

Ueda et al. disclose:

a pair of plate cylinders (fig. 10, element PC, PC') each split into a pair of halves, the pair of halves of the plate cylinder being capable of independent displacement both axially and circumferentially of the plate cylinder;

a pair of blanket cylinders (BC, BC') in rolling contact with the each cylinder;

a first pair of helical gears coaxially coupled to opposite ends of the plate cylinders for joint rotation therewith (fig. 9, element 114);

a second pair of helical gears coaxially coupled to opposite ends of the blanket cylinders for joint rotation therewith, the second pair of helical gears being each in mesh with one of the first pair of helical gears for joint rotation of the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder in opposite directions (element 115, column 4, lines 16-18);

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axial adjustment means for causing axial displacement of each half of each plate cylinder independently of the other half thereof with a view to fine positioning of each of the pair of images transversely of the web (fig. 8, element 101);

circumferential adjustment means (fig. 9, element 117) coupled to one of the first pair of helical gears on each plate cylinder, for causing circumferential displacement of one of the halves of the plate cylinder relative to the other half thereof by causing axial displacement of said one of the first pair of helical gears in sliding engagement with one of the second pair of helical gears on one associated blanket cylinder, with a view to fine positioning of one of the pair of images longitudinally of the web (column 13, lines 6-21); and

drive means for jointly driving the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder in opposite directions at a predetermined speed during printing (fig. 7, element 108).

Ueda et al. does not disclose first drive means for driving the first plate cylinder and blanket cylinder and second drive means for driving the second plate cylinder and blanket cylinder through intermediate gears.

Schneider et al. disclose a first drive means (fig. 1, element M) coupled to a first plate cylinder and a blanket cylinder (column 2, lines 49-55 and column 7, lines 22-31) through an intermediate gear (fig. 2, element 12, column 8, lines 7-10) and second drive means (M) coupled to a second plate cylinder (2) and a second blanket cylinder through an intermediate gear (fig. 2, element 12, column 8, lines 7-10).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the driving structure of Schneider et al. into the

invention of Ueda et al. The reason for performing the modification would have been to economically provide optimal print positions (column 2, lines 31-35) with a simple design with the highest possible degree of configuration freedom in forming print positions and groups of print positions (column 6, line 64-column 7, line 2) while enabling the cylinder group to be reversed more easily (column 7, lines 22-31).

Response to Arguments

3. With regards to claim 7, applicant has attempted to distinguish over the prior art through the recitation of a first and second drive means that includes a cylinder drive motor coupled to one of a second pair of helical gears on one associated blanket cylinder via an intermediate gear of coaxial arrangement with one associated plate cylinder. This claim language is not seen to distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art as exemplified from the following discussion. Applicant's invention utilizes one motor for each pair of a blanker cylinder and a plate cylinder. The motor drives the plate cylinder which drives the blanket cylinder through an intermediate gear. The cited base reference, Ueda et al., disclose one motor for driving both pairs of blanket and plate cylinders. The Schneider et al. reference teaches the advantages of driving each cylinder pair by a separate driving motor (column 2, lines 12-15 and column 6, line 64-column 7, line 2). Schneider et al. teach two arrangements, one in which the motor drives the plate cylinder which drives the blanket cylinder and another in which the motor drives the blanket cylinder which drives the plate cylinder. The first arrangement enables the cylinder group to be reversed more easily while the second arrangement

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provides greater clearance (column 7, lines 22-30). Applicant recognizes these teachings of Schneider in the arguments, but maintains that despite these teachings, the prior art of record does not disclose a first and second drive means that includes a cylinder drive motor coupled to one of a second pair of helical gears on one associated blanket cylinder via an intermediate gear of coaxial arrangement with one associated plate cylinder. As seen in fig. 4 of Schneider et al., an intermediate gear 12 (column 8, lines 7-10) is provided to provide a mechanical coupling between the first cylinder and the second cylinder. Since the intermediate gear is shown by Schneider et al. and would additionally be necessary to enable the device to function, Schneider et al. anticipates the motor driving the blanker cylinder through an intermediate gear on the plate cylinder and the examiner maintains that Ueda et al. as modified by Schneider et al. teach the invention of claim 7.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3-6 are allowed.

With regards to claim 3, the prior art of record does not disclose:

a sleeve coaxially and rotatably mounted to one trunnion of the plate cylinder and constrained to axial displacement therewith and hence with one half of the plate cylinder relative to the frame means, the sleeve being driven for bidirectional rotation from the axial adjustment motor;

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and screw thread means acting between the frame means and the sleeve means for causing the sleeve to travel axially back and forth with said one plate cylinder half upon bidirectional rotation of the sleeve.

With regards to claim 4, the prior art of record does not disclose the limitations found in paragraphs I to VI of claim 4.

With regards to claims 5-6, the prior art of record does not disclose a second sleeve coaxially secured to one of the trunnions and coaxially coupled to the threaded rod so as to permit rotation of the latter while being constrained to joint axial displacement with the threaded rod.

Conclusion

5. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian D. Huffman whose telephone number is (703) 308-6556. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow, can be reached at (703) 308-3126. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7722. Faxes requiring the immediate attention of the examiner may be sent directly to the examiner at (703) 746-4386. Note that this number will not automatically send a confirmation that the fax was received.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



JH

13 January 2003



Huan Tran
Primary Examiner